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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/768,723	01/30/2004	Adrian B. Chernoff	GP-303333	5120
7590	11/16/2004		EXAMINER	
KATHRYN A MARRA			MORROW, JASON S	
General Motors Corporation			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Legal Staff, Mail Code 482-C23-B21			3612	
P.O. Box 300				
Detroit, MI 48265-3000			DATE MAILED: 11/16/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/768,723	CHERNOFF ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Jason S. Morrow	3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 18-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 8-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-7, 16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/8, 7/22.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 84', 86', and 34'. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 17 recites the limitation "the two opposing fenders" in lines 1 and 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is suggested that the dependence of the claim be changed from "14" to --16--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Seksaria et al.

Re claim 1, Seksaria et al. discloses a front structure for a vehicle comprising a unitary panel (figure 5) formed to at least partially define a vehicle cowl and a vehicle bulkhead, and wherein the unitary panel is further configured to at least partially define a front compartment of the vehicle.

Re claim 8, the cowl is configured to extend across the front compartment, and wherein said bulkhead is configured to at least partially separate the front compartment from a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Re claim 9, the cowl comprises a structural cross beam (144), said cross beam being configured to extend across the front compartment.

Re claim 10, the cowl forms an air intake plenum (in between the reference numerals 126wp), and wherein said cross beam is formed between said plenum and said vehicle bulkhead.

Re claim 11, the unitary panel further defines structure at least partially forming a vehicle dashboard and configured for attachment with respect to an instrument panel (see figure 5).

Re claim 12, the vehicle includes two front hinge pillars (110, 108) each having a forward edge, and wherein said unitary panel is configured such that the forward edge of each of said two front hinge pillars substantially continuously abuts said unitary panel when said unitary panel is operatively connected to the vehicle.

Re claim 13, the vehicle cowl forms an air intake plenum.

6. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carsley et al.

Re claim 14, Carsley et al. discloses a body panel for a vehicle comprising a unitary panel formed to at least partially define a hood (see paragraph 19, line 2), wherein said hood is bendable to define a hood outer panel portion (516) and a hood inner panel portion (584), said hood inner panel portion being juxtaposed with said hood outer panel portion and being located inboard thereof, and wherein said unitary panel at least partially defines a front compartment of the vehicle.

Re claim 15, the unitary panel is formed using a method selected from the group consisting of quick plastic forming, superplastic forming and sheet hydroforming.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2-7, 16, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 18-20 are allowed.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Chernoff et al. and Kleber et al. disclose a vehicle hood.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason S. Morrow whose telephone number is (703) 305-7803. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on (703) 308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason S. Morrow
Examiner
Art Unit 3612

November 12, 2004

JASON MORROW
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

11/12/04